

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, we truly have a historic opportunity today. That is to pass a balanced budget amendment. The time is finally here. We can pass a balanced budget amendment with a 60-percent supermajority to pass a tax increase.

Mr. Speaker, I doubt if there is any Member of this body who campaigned on the right to increase taxes. In fact, many of those who did raise taxes are no longer with us in this body. The Barton amendment gives Republicans and Democrats the opportunity to match their rhetoric with the reality of their votes here in Washington.

Back home in Indiana, a 60-percent supermajority to pass a tax increase does not seem enough. In fact, in Indiana they would like 100 percent of this House to have to approve a tax increase, maybe twice, and maybe if they pass it, even an extra clause for a caning for those who pass the tax increase. At the grass roots they do not understand why we cannot decrease the size of Government rather than constantly increase taxes.

Mr. Speaker, today we have the opportunity to pass that. The people of Indiana, the people of this Nation, are watching. I hope we can get the supermajority necessary to pass this protection for our children and ourselves out into the future.

OPPOSITION TO THE MEXICAN BAILOUT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I do not think Congress gets it yet. Eighty-one percent of the American people do not support bailing out Mexico because many of them are worried about losing their job, worried about losing their health insurance, worried about losing their pension, and worried about losing their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask. When the steel mills closed in Ohio and Pennsylvania, where was Uncle Sam? When the farmers were losing their land in the eighties and farmers were literally committing suicide, where was Uncle Sam?

The truth of the matter is the American people are not foolish. When people overseas are in trouble, Uncle Sam jumps in with all four feet, but when the American people are in trouble, Uncle Sam says "Let Willy Nelson take care of it." I am opposed to this bailout.

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, While Congress is debating bailing out Mexico, the Federal Reserve is debating raising the interest rates on our people. Beam me up.

URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN SUPPORTING THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago this month I was elected to the State legislature in Michigan and entered politics full time for the first time in my life. At that time I opposed the Federal balanced budget amendment. Today I will be voting for the balanced budget amendment.

Why did I have that change of heart? It is because of my experience at the State level, working with a balanced budget amendment and a line-item veto, and seeing that it works. Furthermore, it came from observing that over the past half century Congress has not demonstrated that it has the collective self-discipline to balance the budget. It needs some outside impetus to require it.

I have seen it work at the State level. The fact that it exists forces the State legislatures to balance their budgets. If we have a Federal balanced budget amendment, that will force our Congress to balance the budget that they submit to the President each year.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget our children and grandchildren and our obligation to them. Let us join in supporting the balanced budget amendment.

CONGRESS MUST EXCLUDE PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE ELDERLY FROM BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT CUTS

(Mr. HILLIARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, haste makes waste.

Mr. Speaker, I addressed the Committee on Rules in an attempt to get an exemption to the balanced budget amendment considered. That exemption would have provided that Aid to Dependent Children would have been exempted from any consideration on a balanced budget.

It is very important that any society, any country, realize that in order to be a country that is civilized, it must protect two groups: Those who are unable to protect themselves, the elderly and the young. Unless some provisions are made, we will fail to do that.

America is strong, not just because of the fact that it is economically secure. It is strong because over the years it has made sure that it takes care of those individuals that cannot fend for themselves.

For Congress to do less would be reneging on the legacy of democracy, Mr. Speaker, and I submit that haste makes waste, that sometime in the future we will regret the action that we are about to do. We must give consider-

ation to Americans who are not able to give consideration for themselves.

□ 0910

DAYS OF DEFICIT SPENDING NEAR END

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are constantly asking us how are we going to balance the budget by 2002.

But a more pertinent question is when do my liberal, big-spending colleagues on the other side of the aisle plan to balance the budget? If you do not think it should be done by the year 2002, 7 years from now, when do you think it should be done? Isn't a \$5 trillion debt enough?

The Democrats do not want a balanced budget amendment for one reason. They want Americans addicted to big Government because they are the party of big Government.

You know, I think it is important to address the moral dimension of deficit spending. Thrift, frugality, and deferred gratification are virtues. But deficit spending is a vice that has been used by big-spending politicians as just another incumbent-protection device. In the words of Harry Hopkins, they would "borrow and borrow, spend and spend, elect and elect."

But those days are about to end, Mr. Speaker.

HASTE MAKES WASTE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, good morning.

I rise today to clarify for the American people what this balanced budget debate is all about. Make no mistake about it, the Democrats want a balanced budget. The difference is, we want to do it right.

I am from the State of Maryland, 10 years in the State legislature. We had a balanced budget. We are one of only about seven States with a triple-A bond rating, but we understand how to do it right and that is what we need to do on the floor of this assembly.

First we need truth-in-budgeting. We need to know exactly what cuts will be necessary in order to balance the budget. You would not buy a house without knowing the mortgage payments. We need to know what we are going to have to do in order to balance this budget. It seems to me people are wondering will it really cause a 20-percent cut in Medicare? Will it really cut out veterans' benefits, truth-in-budgeting?

Second, preserve Social Security. Yesterday we went through a charade. We passed a resolution. That is not the force of law. We need to put in law that